

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 AID-20 EUR-25 IO-14 DRC-01 /154 W

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R 190952Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 899

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONYYL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JAKARTA 2138

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR,PFOR,ID,MY

SUBJECT: MALIK DENIES PROBLEM WITH MALAYSIA OVER NATUNA  
ARCHIPELAGO

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SUMMARY: FONMIN ADAM MALIK HAS STRONGLY DENIED REPORTS  
THAT INDONESIA'S CLAIM OVER THE NATUNA ARCHIPELAGO  
LOCATED BETWEEN WEST MALAYSIA AND SARAWAK HAS CREATED  
A DISPUTE OVER NAVIGATION RIGHTS BETWEEN INDONESIA AND  
MALAYSIA. HE CALLED THESE REPORTS "BASELESS" AND "PRO-  
VOCATIVE". NOTWITHSTANDING MALIK'S DISCLAIMER, INCIDENT  
ILLUSTRATES POTENTIAL CONFLICT BETWEEN INDONESIA  
ARCHIPELAGIC SEA CONCEPT AND MALAYSIAN INTEREST IN  
FREE NAVIGATION IN NATUNA AREA. FOLLOWING BASED ON  
PRESS REPORTS FEBRUARY 16. END SUMMARY. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. MALIK WAS REFERRING TO RECENT RADIO AUSTRALIA (ABC)

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REPORT FROM KUALA LUMPUR THAT GOM HAD PROTESTED TO GOI  
AFTER LATTER CLAIMED SOVEREIGNTY OVER WATERS SOUTH OF

NATUNA ARCHIPELAGO BETWEEN WEST MALAYSIA AND SARAWAK. ACCORDING TO ABC REPORT - WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PRINTED IN INDONESIAN PRESS - MALAYSIA RECOGNIZES NATUNA ARCHIPELAGO AS INDONESIAN TERRITORY, BUT IS CONCERNED ABOUT MAINTAINING UNIMPEDED NAVIGATION BETWEEN WEST AND EAST MALAYSIA WHICH MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY INDONESIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER WATERS SOUTH OF NATUNA.

2. DURING PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 15, MALIK SAID ISSUE IS A FALSE ONE DREAMED UP BY A "MISCHIEVOUS" JOURNALIST, AND DENIED PROBLEM EXISTS BETWEEN INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA. HE ADDED THAT AFTER HEARING REPORT, HE IMMEDIATELY INSTRUCTED INDONESIAN EMBASSY IN KUALA LUMPUR TO REASSURE GOM THAT THERE IS NO SUCH PROBLEM. MALIK SAID INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA HAVE FORMED JOINT COMMITTEE FOR DISCUSSION OF SUCH MATTERS AS JURISDICTION OVER STRAIT OF MALACCA, BUT THAT NATUNA ISLAND AREA HAS NOT BEEN DISCUSSED. END UNCLASSIFIED

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3. MALIK'S DIPLOMATIC DISCLAIMER DOES NOT, OF COURSE, ELIMINATE FACT THAT INDONESIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATUNA ARCHIPELAGO, WHEN COMBINED WITH INDONESIAN CLAIM OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER ALL ITS ARCHIPELAGIC WATERS, WOULD EFFECTIVELY DIVIDE WEST AND EAST MALAYSIA FROM NATUNAS ISLAND SOUTHWARD. THIS WOULD REQUIRE MALAYSIAN SHIPS SAILING BETWEEN WEST AND EAST MALAYSIA TO PASS THROUGH INDONESIAN WATERS OR MAKE A SEMI-CIRCULAR DETOUR TO THE NORTH.  
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## Message Attributes

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